

MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)
Teleconference Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2011
6:30 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Present: Vice Chair Thomas W. Windsor II, Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh, Robert Killen, Wanda Lee, Sherry Majors, Guy Wells

Absent: Chair Auriel Fenwick, Virginia Busby, Allen Red Deer

Staff Present: E. Keith Colston, Phil Deters, Elizabeth Hines, Izzy Patoka, Agnes M. Smith

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Thomas Windsor.

Executive Director Izzy Patoka noted that there were three items on the agenda.

I. Accohannock Petition update

A letter went out to Chief Rudy Hall on December 2, 2011 outlining the additional information requested by the RAC. Mr. Norris Howard is to be notified once the information is received and redacted. Administrator Keith Colston and Mr. Phil Deters will redact the information. Mr. Deters noted that the RAC is asking for new information and Mr. Norris has an opportunity to comment on the new materials.

II. Piscataway Conoy Tribe (PCT)

Vice Chair Thomas Windsor recused himself. Executive Director Patoka noted that on August 8, 2011 the Attorney General's office offered an opinion on the PCT petition. Executive Director Patoka noted that the PCT has now brought forth the necessary materials in response to the AG's request. From the two documents in which the Commission received included 1) A letter from Phoebe Jacobson which outlines the endogamy report that responds to the sixty-year gap in documents between 1790 and 1850. In addition, the Commission received the updated materials from the PCT showing continuity between 1995 and 2011 of the PCT's activities. The materials included meeting dates, meeting minutes, and newspaper articles. Mr. Patoka noted he was comfortable in submitting a request for reconsideration of the PCT petition to the Commission.

Chairman Guy Wells put forth a motion to vote on acknowledging receipt of the PCT's documents in response to the AG's opinion and to put forth a request for reconsideration of the PCT petition to the Governor for Indian Recognition Status.

1st Commissioner Robert Killen

2nd Commissioner Sherry Majors

Commission unanimously passed motion, five to zero.

III. Piscataway Indian Nation (PIN)

Executive Director Patoka noted that there was some activity late November with the PIN Petition. He noted that the redacted version of Volume 11 was delivered to PCT for review. A note was received from Tribal Chair Mervin Savoy stating that the PCT is not going to comment on Vol. 11 of the PIN petition.

Chairman Guy Wells put forth a motion to accept recommendations from RAC for approval of PIN Petition.

1st Commissioner Sherry Majors

2nd Commissioner Robert Killen
Commission unanimously passed motion, five to zero.

It was noted that Commissioners made history.

Executive Director Patoka noted that Administrator Colston will notify the Governor of the actions tonight. The next steps will include the Governor's signing of an Executive Order for PCT & PIN for Indian Status in Maryland.

Chairman Guy Wells put forth a motion for adjournment.

1st Commissioner Robert Killen

2nd Commissioner Wanda Lee

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.